



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 E 6th Ave, PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-1267

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. Purpose of and Need for Action

1. Project Title: Missoula Trap & Skeet Club (MT&SC)

2. Type of Proposed Action:

Replace old fencing with newer more secure fencing.

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action: The MT&SC is located west of Missoula along Highway 10 West, between Highway 10 and Interstate 90, about ½ mile west of the intersection of Interstate 90 and highway 93 North in Missoula. (See figure 1)

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) MCA87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The 2007 Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges for public purposes. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

5. Need for the Action(s): The MT&SC property is fenced with old agricultural style fencing composed mostly of barbed wire, but with some woven wire interspersed. This fence has deteriorated over time and no longer provides range security from those who might inadvertently wander into the shooting zones.

6. Objectives for the Action(s): Improve range security and safety. Replace the old dilapidated agricultural style fence with new 6' chain link fencing.

7. Maps and Supporting Figures:

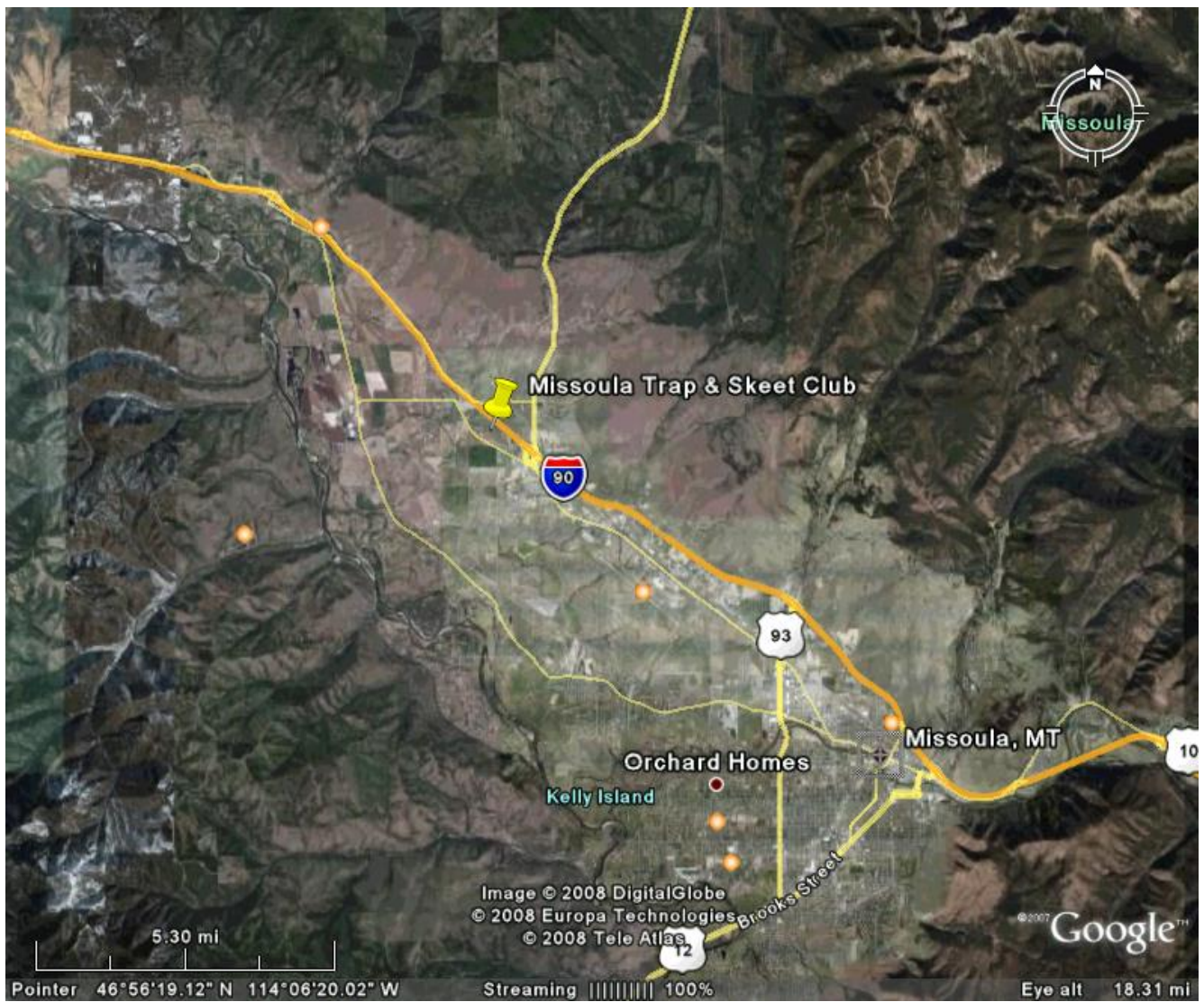


Figure 1 – Missoula Trap & Skeet Club Map with surrounding area



Figure 2 – Missoula Trap & Skeet Club

8. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The club owns 72 acres for the range. The area of the proposed project is a much smaller area within that acreage.

9. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing MT&SC. MT&SC was incorporated in 1928 and received title to the original 48.02 acres of the range in 1966. The range(s) have been in the current location since 1963 after moving from their former location at Fort Missoula. An additional 24 acres was added later making the total acreage approximately 52 acres. The range is located between interstate 90 and old highway 10, which is essentially light industrial and commercial, although it is not zoned (See Figure 1). The MT&SC consists of 20 trap fields, 5 skeet fields, one 5-stand sporting clays field and 1 international (Olympic) trap field. The facilities also include a 2,000 square foot clubhouse, a repair shop, a target shed, a shower house and 60 recreational vehicle parking spaces.

10. Description of Project:

This range improvement project is to fence its west, north and east property lines with 4,751 feet of 11 gauge chain link security fence, with 7 gauge coil spring tension wire top and bottom, and steel posts set in concrete.

In Accordance With (IAW) contract agreements with Fish, Wildlife & Parks, all projects are to be completed by June 30, 2009.

11. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:**(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:**

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Permit</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|
| N/A | |

Funding:

| <u>Agency Name</u> | <u>Funding Amount</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks | \$23,160 |

12. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups:

The Missoula Trap & Skeet Club (MT&SC) is a private club, and anyone may become a member. Non-members are allowed to use the facilities on a trial basis and members are allowed to bring guests. The MT&SC shooting fields and clubhouse are available to and have been used by organizations such as Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 4H, Boy Scouts, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever at no charge.

13. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement:

Proposed range improvements proposals have been discussed within the membership of the club and at the following public meetings:

4/7/08 club members attended a neighborhood meeting held specifically to discuss the proposed subdivision on the north side of the MT&SC. The MT&SC fencing project was discussed and positive feedback was received. The neighbors requested a 6' high fence around the proposed subdivision. All in attendance were in favor of both fencing projects.

4/15/08: club members attended the Planning Board Meeting for the proposed subdivision. A 6' high fence was requested too be built around the proposed subdivision and the Planning board agreed and stipulated it as a condition of the Subdivision. We stated the present and past history of our gun club for the record.

4/21/08: MT&SC board meeting with representatives of Territorial Land Works, the subdivision developer, to discuss the proposed subdivision and the fencing project. They are also in agreement for the need for a fence for both the subdivision and the gun club.

14. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

15. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Gary Janssen, 12080 N. Hwy 93, Missoula, MT 59808, (406) 721-0260

16. Other Pertinent Information: Lead shot is “mined” and removed from the range every four years. Mining activity is scheduled again in 2008.

Shooting range applications require the participant’s governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 4, 2008

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas)

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

| Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to: | Unknown | Potentially Significant | Minor | None | Can Be Mitigated | Comments Below |
|---|---------|-------------------------|-------|------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources | | | | X | | |
| 2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats | | | | X | | #2 |
| 3. Introduction of new species into an area | | | | X | | |
| 4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality | | | | X | | |
| 5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater) | | | | X | | #5 |
| 6. Existing water right or reservation | | | | X | | |
| 7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture | | | | X | | |
| 8. Air quality or objectionable odors | | | | X | | |
| 9. Historical & archaeological sites | | | | X | | |
| 10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy | | | | X | | |
| 11. Aesthetics | | | | X | | |

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

2. & 5. There are no live streams or ponds on the site and no delineated wetlands.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

| Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to: | Unknown | Potentially Significant | Minor | None | Can Be Mitigated | Comments Below |
|--|---------|-------------------------|-------|------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. Social structures and cultural diversity | | | | X | | |
| 2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat | | | | X | | |
| 3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue | | | | X | | |
| 4. Agricultural production | | | | X | | |
| 5. Human health | | | | X | | |
| 6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income | | | | X | | |
| 7. Access to & quality of recreational activities | | | | X | | #7 |
| 8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances) | | | | X | | |
| 9. Distribution & density of population and housing | | | | X | | |
| 10. Demands for government services | | | | X | | |
| 11. Industrial and/or commercial activity | | | | X | | |

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

7. All shooting fields, the clubhouse and restrooms are handicap accessible.

Part III. Environmental Consequences

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Identification of the Preferred Alternatives:

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in paragraph 10 (Description of Project) to replace old security fence with a newer better security fence.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Sports Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active trap and skeet range without an adequate security fence.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Two alternatives have been considered, **A** (Proposed Alternative) and **B** (No Action Alternative). There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent.

Neither the proposed alternative (**A**) nor the no action alternative (**B**) would have any significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to Acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** improving range safety and security by constructing a new state-of-the-art security fence.
- The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be not to improve range safety and security but to continue with the old inadequate security fence. Land use would remain the same. Present activities including trap and skeet ranges without the proposed improvements to the safety and security. Therefore the proposed alternative is the prudent alternative.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigative measures (stipulations):

NONE

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Gary Janssen, 12080 N. Hwy 93, Missoula, MT 59808
Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks

PART IV NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being proposed are on properties owned by the Missoula Trap and Skeet Club. The low impact activities proposed, the increased safety and security all indicate that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative (A). The 80 year history of the Missoula Trap and Skeet Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the modernization and expansion proposals outlined in Para. 2 & 10.

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602
Date Completed: June 22, 2008

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

None required.

Describe public involvement, if any:

Announcement for EA comment will be published in the **Missoulian** and on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website to allow an opportunity for public review. Additionally the EA will be available for review on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks website. Comment period deadline is August 25, 2008.